

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, PA, XM

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL SUPPORTS US TRADE ACT AND CRITIZES
POSTPONEMENT OF BA FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

1. IN THE LATEST OF A SERIES OF EDITORIAL COMMENTARIES
DEFENDING THE NEW U.S. TRADE LAW, PARAGUAY'S LARGEST
DAILY, ABC-COLOR, ON FEBRUARY 9 STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE
DECISION TO POSTPONE THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING OF FOREIGN
MINISTERS, STATING THAT THEIR EARLIER CONCERN OVER THE
DANGERS INHERENT IN THE "DEMAGOGIC ATTITUDE" OF VENEZUELA
HAD NOW BEEN FULLY JUSTIFIED.

2. "WE DO NOT SUGGEST THAT THE NEW TRADE LAW OF THE
UNITED STATES IS PERFECT, BUT IF SOME LATIN AMERICAN
COUNTRIES BELIEVE THAT IT COULD DAMGE THEIR INTERESTS,
THE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BA WOULD HAVE BEEN
THE IDEAL SPOT TO EXAMINE IT IN FRANK AND HONORABLE
DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S. IN THIS
MANNER THE 'NEW DIALOGUE' WOULD HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED
AND THE NECESSARY CORRECTIONS COULD HAVE BEEN OBTAINED,
SINCE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD DEMONSTRATED ITS WILLING-
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NESS TO DO SO."

3. "LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY CAN BE INVOKED IN ORDER TO DEFEND COMMON INTERESTS ..., BUT THIS IS NOT THE CASE, SINCE THE TRADE LAW PRINCIPALLY AFFECTS VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR WHO ARE ENRICHING THEMSELVES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PETROLEUM CONSUMING COUNTRIES, WHICH INCLUDES A MAJORITY OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. FROM AN ACTION WHICH INITIALLY WAS ECONOMIC IN NATURE, WE HAVE PASSED TO A POLITICAL MOVEMENT DIRECTED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AND LED BY A GROUP OF COUNTRIES GOVERNED BY LEFTISTS."

4. "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING ... IS A LARGE STEP BACKWARD IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND REPRESENTS A VICTORY FOR THE DIVISIVE POLICY OF CUBA."

5. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THIS SERIES OF EDITORIALS ON THE US TRADE LAW AND RELATED SUBJECTS HAS FOLLOWED A LINE FAVORABLE TO US. THIS VIEW APPEARS TO BE FULLY SHARED BY GOP AS WELL.

LANDAU

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED ABOVE.

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